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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were originally presented in the subject continuing application. Claims 1-16 have hereinabove been canceled without prejudice, and replaced by new claims 17-40, in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Therefore, claims 17-40 remain in this case.

The addition of new matter has been scrupulously avoided. In that regard, support for the new claims can be found throughout the application as filed, including the claims.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the grounds of rejection and objection.

Objection to Previously Filed Amendment

The Office Action objected to the amendment filed on 30 June 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §132, as allegedly introducing new matter into the application. In particular, the Office Action pointed to the sentence "This hum or noise is well known in the art as a 'mains hum[,]'" along with all references to "bobbin" in paragraph 0058.

With respect to the "hum or noise" sentence, the Office Action cited to paragraph 0029, however, that sentence is actually in paragraph 0020. Although that sentence is not necessary for the new claims (there is no recitation of "mains hum" in the new claims), and is herein removed to advance prosecution, Applicant submits there actually is support for the sentence in the parent application. For example, the parent indicates that "'noise' can result from a small voltage of 50 Hz or 60 Hz induced from mains power" (see paragraph 0004 of the parent); and discusses canceling a "60 Hz hum or noise" (see paragraph 0020 of the parent). Taken together, it is clear that the hum or noise is induced by mains power; hence the term "mains hum."

Applicant is at a loss to understand why all references to "bobbin" in paragraph 0058 of the present application are sought to be removed when the term "bobbin" appears

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repeatedly throughout the parent application. For example, "bobbin" appears in the abstract of the parent, and in claims 13 and 26 as filed, as well as paragraphs 0012, 0016, 0018, 0025 and 0030. Moreover, it is clear from the description of FIG. 9 in paragraphs 0061 and 0081 of the parent that the terms "bobbin" and "former" are used interchangeably, as one skilled in the art will understand. The Examiner is encouraged to verify the above by a text search on the published parent application.

Therefore, Applicant submits there is ample support for the term "bobbin."

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, as allegedly indefinite for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Office Action alleges that there is no support in the parent case for the terms "former" and "mains hum." Applicant respectfully, but most strenuously, traverses this rejection.

As noted above, Applicant has shown that there is support for the term "mains hum" in the parent case. However, since that term is not present in the new claims, it would appear the rejection with regard to that term is now moot.

Regarding the term "former," Applicant submits there is support in the parent case. For example, paragraph 0081 in the published parent application uses the term. Thus, Applicant submits the term is not new matter.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Kinman (U.S. Patent No. 5,834,999). Applicant respectfully, but most strenuously, traverses this rejection as it applies to new claims 17-40.

Although the Office Action did not specify which Kinman reference was being cited, the use of "Kinman" first appeared in the final Office Action in the parent case with a

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mailing date of December 31, 2002 (marked as paper no. 8). The Notice of References Cited sent with the final Office Action lists U.S. Patent No. 5,834,999, a patent by the present Applicant. Thus, Applicant assumes that is the reference being cited. The Examiner is requested to make clear in any subsequent action which reference is being cited, as there are three Kinman references, all by the present Applicant.

With respect to the anticipation rejection, it is well settled that a claimed invention is not anticipated unless a single prior art reference discloses: (1) all the same elements of the claimed invention; (2) found in the same situation as the claimed invention; (3) united in the same way as the claimed invention; (4) in order to perform the identical function of the claimed invention. In this instance, Kinman fails to disclose at least one element of each of the independent claims and as a result does not anticipate, or even render obvious, the present invention.

Claim 17 recites, for example, a noise-sensing coil comprising a core, the core comprising steel laminations or a ferrite material. Applicant submits this aspect of claim 17 is not disclosed, taught or suggested in Kinman. For example, a text search in Kinman reveals that the term "core" is only used to describe two coils in FIGs. 7-12 therein having identical core material, though no specific core material is disclosed, and the term is not used elsewhere. In addition, the term "ferrite" is not used at all, while the term "steel" is only used in the context of describing a shield, not a core. Moreover, laminations are not even mentioned, let alone steel laminations.

As another example, claim 17 recites that eddy current losses are reduced when a voltage is induced in the noise-sensing coil in order to cancel a noise voltage induced in the string-sensing coil. Again, the term "eddy" is not used in Kinman, and there is no discussion of eddy currents at all.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 17 cannot be anticipated by or made obvious over Kinman.

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Claim 40 recites, for example, a core comprising magnetically permeable composite material which inhibits eddy currents, whereby eddy current losses are reduced when a voltage is induced in the noise-sensing coil in order to cancel a noise voltage induced in the string-sensing coil.

As noted above with respect to claim 17, the term "eddy" is not used in Kinman, nor is there any discussion of eddy currents.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 40 cannot be anticipated by or made obvious over Kinman.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Blucher (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,199). Applicant respectfully, but most strenuously, traverses this rejection.

With respect to the aspects of claim 17 noted above with respect to Kinman, a text search in Blucher reveals that none of the terms "steel," "ferrite," or "eddy," or derivatives thereof appear in Blucher. The term "core" is only used in the context of a ferromagnetic (versus ferrite, specifically) or hollow core. There is no discussion of lamination in the core, let alone the steel laminations recited in claim 17, nor is there any disclosure of a ferrite material for the core. In addition, there is no mention of eddy currents at all.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 17 cannot be anticipated by or rendered obvious over Blucher.

Similarly, claim 40 recites, for example, a core comprising magnetically permeable composite material which inhibits eddy currents whereby eddy current losses are reduced when a voltage is induced in the noise-sensing coil in order to cancel a noise voltage induced in the string-sensing coil.

As there is no discussion in Blucher of eddy currents, Applicant submits there can be no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the above-noted aspect of claim 40.

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Therefore, Applicant submits claim 40 cannot be anticipated by or made obvious over Blucher.

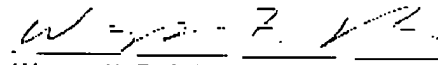
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the dependent claims not specifically addressed herein are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they directly or ultimately depend, as well as for their additional limitations.

For all the above reasons, Applicant maintains that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly requests allowance of claims 17-40.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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